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Forestry Club 1987-1988

Jerry J. Flemming
Iowa State University

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The numbers of forestry majors has been declining in recent years. One impact of this decline is reflected in the numbers of people in the Forestry Club; however, persons active in club affairs have input enough effort to pull off an extremely successful season.

In addition to reduced club membership, many prominent forestry figures graduated in the past year. Those people who were running the club when and since I entered the department just up and graduated and left for bigger and better things. The input from those "old-timers" will be remembered in the halls of Bessey for many years.

The shoes of graduates were promptly filled: primarily by the 1987 Montana summer-campers. As early as summer camp, a group of "happy-campers" saw the need to attract as many forestry majors to the club as possible. They wrote letters of welcome to persons entering the department in the fall and invited them to join the club. The "happy-campers" continued their efforts back in school by being enthusiastic and helpful to new students to extend the sense of camaraderie many past foresters haven't realized until their summer camps.

Forestry Club officers, in conjunction with those from F.P.R.S. and S.A.F., spoke with freshmen classes and organized the fall Forestry Welcome Picnic shortly after the start of the academic year. The picnic turned out to be a major success for all who got involved.

As Club president, I was very fortunate to have a hard-working behind-the-scenes cabinet. Bryce Duncan, vice-president, and Brad Karlovek, treasurer, were especially helpful in keeping the club organized and running smooth. Club advisors, Rick Hall and Joe Colletti, and the departmental staff in general, were actively involved in making the year a success for the Forestry Club. Their assistance in preparing signs and memos, announcing activities in classes, general enthusiasm, and participation in club events has been appreciated by the club.

The club sold promotional items throughout the year, primarily to department personnel who wished to express their Forestry Department pride. Jackets, sweatshirts, and T-shirts sold by the club, along with the F.P.R.S. belt buckles and S.A.F. hats, all featuring Iowa State Forestry insignia, composed the "in" fashion on second floor of Bessey.

The extra labor involved in establishing the Forestry Club's Christmas tree plantation required considerable time again this year. Plantation manager, Brian Sterbenz, and crews of hard-core foresters were able to complete most plantation operations on schedule. Once again, the Forestry 302 class helped with planting, taking a load off the club. The work load at the plantation should settle down by the time the plantation is in full production.

In conjunction with plantation crews, fuelwood crews were able to cut several cords of wood off the plantation in preparation for spring planting. Keith Mousel, fuelwood chairman, was able to sell another several cords of seasoned fuelwood to help finance plantation establishment. Mark Burns organized a program given by Lee McMillen to promote safety with the club's chainsaws and equipment.

Christmas tree sales gave the club's declining monetary base the needed boost to continue the club's long-term Christmas tree business. Inspired by the dedication of Christmas tree chair, Bryce Duncan, and the spark of a new forestry student, Ryan Reich- enbacker, club members faced the cold and end-of-semester pressures and sold all of the trees. Christmas tree sellers were rewarded with a dinner early in the spring semester.

Leslie Herzog and Scott Davis put a lot of time and effort into organizing the Ames Forester throughout the academic year. They set high standards on themselves and deserve the credit for the high quality of this year's annual. They were assisted by the many people whose articles appear on these pages.

Another person who set high goals and had them pay off was this year's Game Banquet chairman, Martin Van Maanen. The Wild Game Banquet was a big success and an excellent way for the club to pat itself on the back for an extremely successful year. A good meal was offered, student leaders were recognized, and awards were presented to many outstanding foresters.

Once again the club made a VEISHEA display to expose the public to forestry. Nancy Shorma headed the planning and preparations of the display throughout the spring semester. Seedlings grown by the Forestry 505 classes were given away as part of the club's attempts to promote forestry in Iowa.

Throughout the year, the club was entertained with pizza parties, movie nights, and friendly games of softball. Several faculty members invited club members over for "fireside" meals. A "joint-fireside" was offered by last summer camp's directors with slide shows and videos of their adventures. Guest speakers were invited to club meetings for the entertain-
ment as well as the educational aspects. All club activities in general were made as entertaining as possible to make club membership a fun experience. I can’t mention all of the names of the people who contributed to the super year in Forestry Club. The success of the club strengthens the one observation that sticks out in my forestry career: of all the resources involved in the Forestry profession, the most valuable, and consequently, the one that all management is based on is PEOPLE. I’ve had a good time in the club these past few years and as I graduate, I can truly say, “I’m glad I got involved.”

-Jerry J. Flemming, Forestry Club President

Softball, volleyball, brats and burgers - it just doesn’t get much better than that. Top it off with a fine mixture of forestry undergraduates, grad students, faculty and staff on a sunny autumn afternoon in Brookside Park and you got the makings for a good time. What better way to kick off the academic year than to mix and mingle, welcome new students, eat a good meal, and take part in some friendly competition.

The 1987 Fall Forestry Welcome Picnic was sponsored by the Forest Products Research Society, the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters, and the Forestry Club. Officers from the various clubs organized the event shortly after classes commenced. Food was prepared for a targeted sixty persons: Fifty-nine turned out - not bad planning, eh? The food was prepared by the clubs’ finest chefs and consumed as fast as it came off the grill.

Many hard-core foresters engaged themselves in a softball game while others rolled in the sand of the volleyball court. Others pitched horseshoes, tossed frisbees, or just sat in the sun reminiscing summer camp or seasonal jobs. There was a large turnout of 1987 summer campers as well as the faithful “old-timers” who always show up for free food. New students were welcomed into the department and exposed to the comradeship offered by the department. The picnic was an overall success. Everyone had a good time, a full stomach, and the semester was officially kicked off on a good note.

-Jerry J. Flemming

Front row (L-R): Michelle Heiker, Jeff Roe, Jerry Flemming, Keith Mousel, Sharon Hover, Darla Forbes, Middle row (L-R): Mike Capek, Carla Duncan, Kristen Weber, Brad Karlovec, Bryce Duncan, Nancy Shorma, Back row (L-R): Tom Huegerich, John Fish, Brian Sterbenz, Mark Burns, Marty Van Maanen, and Ryan Richenbacher